

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claim 60 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and amend Claims 1 to 3, 6, 8, 10 to 12, 15, 18 to 20, 25, 27 to 29, 31 to 37, 40, 42, 44 to 46, 49 and 52 to 59 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, now read as follows:

1. (Currently amended) An image managing apparatus for managing retrievable images, comprising:

image storage means for storing a plurality of images;

selecting means for selecting a single image from the plurality of images, wherein the single image includes a plurality of objects;

input means for inputting management relevant information for each of the plurality of objects within the single image, wherein the management relevant information includes one or more words ~~a word~~ describing an interrelationship between one object with at least one other object and a position where the one object is placed in the single image; and

memory means for storing the management relevant information inputted by said input means in association with the single image.

2. (Currently amended) An image managing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the management relevant information further includes at least one of a general name of an object, a qualifier therefor, and a proper noun thereof; ~~and a position thereof~~.

3. (Currently amended) An image managing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the management relevant information further includes information expressing a state of an object in the single image.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously presented) An image managing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the qualifier is comprised of a plurality of words.

6. (Currently amended) An image managing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said input means includes position designating means for designating a position of an object in the single image, and display means for displaying an input window used to input the management ~~relevant~~ information concerning the object at the designated position.

7. (Previously presented) An image managing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the position designating means designates positions of two mutually-related objects in the single image.

8. (Currently amended) An image managing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising query ~~retrieval requirement~~ input means for inputting query ~~requirements~~ for retrieval, and image retrieving means for retrieving including an object image ~~images~~ that meets ~~meet the query requirements for retrieval~~ inputted by said query ~~retrieval requirement~~ input means.

9. (Previously presented) An image managing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said input means inputs supplementary information including at least one of imaging-related information of the single image, special object information thereof, category information

thereof, impression information thereof, time information thereof, place information thereof, weather information thereof, and event information thereof.

10. (Currently amended) An image retrieving apparatus for retrieving images, comprising:

image storage means for storing a plurality of images, wherein each image includes a plurality of objects;

memory means for storing management ~~identification~~ information for each of a [[the]] plurality of objects included in a single image in association with the single image ~~relevant information for the plurality of objects~~, wherein the management ~~relevant~~ information includes a word describing an interrelationship between one object with at least one other object;

query ~~retrieval requirement~~ input means for inputting query ~~requirements~~ for retrieval, wherein the query includes at least one word; and

retrieving means for retrieving an image including an object that meets the query ~~requirements for retrieval~~ inputted by said query ~~retrieval requirement~~ input means, based on the management ~~relevant~~ information stored in said memory means.

11. (Currently amended) An image retrieving apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the management ~~relevant~~ information further includes at least one of a general name of an object, a qualifier therefor, a proper noun thereof, and a position thereof.

12. (Currently amended) An image retrieving apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the management ~~relevant~~ information further includes information expressing a state of an object in the single image.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously presented) An image retrieving apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the qualifier is comprised of a plurality of words.

15. (Currently amended) An image retrieving apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising a position designating means for designating a position of an object of interest in the single image, and display means for displaying an input window used to input the management ~~relevant~~ information concerning the object at the designated position.

16. (Previously presented) An image retrieving apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said position designating means designates positions of two mutually-related objects in the single image.

17. (Previously presented) An image retrieving apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said input means inputs supplementary information including at least one of imaging-related information of the single image, special object information thereof, category information thereof, impression information thereof, time information thereof, place information thereof, weather information thereof, and event information thereof.

18. (Currently amended) An image managing method for managing retrievable images, comprising:

an image storage step, of storing a plurality of images, wherein each ~~the single~~ image includes a plurality of objects;

a selection step, of selecting a single image from the plurality of images;  
an input step, of inputting management relevant information for each of the plurality of objects within the single image, wherein the management relevant information includes one or more words ~~a word~~ describing an interrelationship between one object with at least one other object and a position where the one object is placed in the single image; and  
a storage step, of storing the management relevant information inputted in said input step in association with the single image.

19. (Currently amended) An image managing method according to claim 18, wherein the management relevant information further includes at least one of a general name of an object, a qualifier therefor, and a proper noun thereof; ~~and a position thereof~~.

20. (Currently amended) An image managing method according to claim 18, wherein the management relevant information further includes information expressing a state of an object in the single image.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously presented) An image managing method according to claim 19, wherein the qualifier is comprised of a plurality of words.

23. (Currently amended) An image managing method according to claim 18, wherein said input step includes a position designation step of designating a position of an object in the single image, and a display step of displaying an input window used to input the management ~~relevant~~ information concerning the object at the designated position.

24. (Previously presented) An image managing method according to claim 23, wherein, in the position designation step, positions of two mutually-related objects in the single image are designated.

25. (Currently amended) An image managing method according to claim 18, further comprising a query ~~retrieval requirement~~ input step of inputting query requirements query for retrieval, and an image retrieval step of retrieving images including an object that meets ~~meet~~ the query requirements ~~for retrieval~~ inputted in said query ~~retrieval requirement~~ input step.

26. (Previously presented) An image managing method according to claim 18, wherein, in the input step, supplementary information including at least one of imaging-related information of the single image, special object information thereof, category information thereof, impression information thereof, time information thereof, place information thereof, whether information thereof, and event information thereof is inputted.

27. (Currently Amended) An image retrieving method for retrieving images, comprising:

an image storage step, of storing a plurality of images, wherein each image includes a plurality of objects;

a storage step, of storing management ~~identification~~ information for each of a [[the]] plurality of objects included in a single image in association with the single image ~~relevant information for the plurality of objects~~, wherein the management ~~relevant~~ information includes a word describing an interrelationship between one object with at least one other object;

a query ~~retrieval requirement~~ input step, of inputting query ~~requirements~~ query for retrieval; and

a retrieval step, of retrieving an image including an object that meets the query ~~requirements for retrieval~~ inputted in said query ~~retrieval requirement~~ input step, based on the stored management ~~relevant~~ information.

28. (Currently amended) An image retrieving ~~managing~~ method according to claim 27, wherein the management ~~relevant~~ information further includes at least one of a general name of an object, a qualifier therefor, a proper noun thereof, and a position thereof.

29. (Currently amended) An image retrieving ~~managing~~ method according to claim 27, wherein the management ~~relevant~~ information further includes information expressing a state of an object in the single image.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently amended) An image retrieving ~~managing~~ method according to claim 28, wherein the qualifier is comprised of a plurality of words.

32. (Currently amended) An image retrieving ~~managing~~ method according to claim 27, further comprising a position designation step of designating a position of an object of interest in the single image, and a display step of displaying an input window used to input the management ~~relevant~~ information concerning the object at the designated position.

33. (Currently amended) An image retrieving ~~managing~~ method according to claim 32, wherein, in said position designation step, positions of two mutually-related objects in the single image are designated.

34. (Currently amended) An image retrieving ~~managing~~ method according to claim 27, wherein, in said storage step, supplementary information including at least one of imaging-related information of the single image, special object information thereof, category information thereof, impression information thereof, time information thereof, place information thereof, weather information thereof, and event information thereof is stored.

35. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium in which is stored a computer-executable program for implementing an image managing method for managing retrievable stored images, the method comprising:

an image storage step, of storing a plurality of images;

a selecting step, of selecting a single image from the plurality of images, wherein the single image includes a plurality of objects;

a input step, of inputting management ~~relevant~~ information for each of the plurality objects within the single image, wherein the management ~~relevant~~ information includes

one or more words ~~a word~~ describing an interrelationship between one object with at least one other object and a position where the one object is placed in the single image; and

a storage step, of storing the management relevant inputted in said input step in association with the single image.

36. (Currently amended) A storage medium according to claim 35, wherein the management relevant information further includes at least one of a general name of an object, a qualifier therefor, and a proper noun thereof, ~~and a position thereof~~.

37. (Currently amended) A storage medium according to claim 35, wherein the management relevant information further includes information expressing a state of an object in the single image.

38. (Canceled)

39. (Previously presented) A storage medium according to claim 36, wherein the qualifier is comprised of a plurality of words.

40. (Currently amended) A storage medium according to claim 35, wherein said input step includes a position designation step of designating a position of an object in the single image, and a display step of displaying an input window used to input the management relevant information concerning the object at the designated position.

41. (Previously presented) A storage medium according to claim 40, wherein, in the position designation step, positions of two mutually-related objects in the single image are designated.

42. (Currently amended) A storage medium according to claim 35, wherein the method further comprises a query retrieval requirement input step of inputting query requirements for retrieval, and an image retrieval step of retrieving images including an object that meets ~~meet~~ the query requirements for retrieval inputted in the query retrieval requirement input step.

43. (Previously presented) A storage medium according to claim 35, wherein, in said input step, supplementary information including at least one of imaging-related information of the single image, special object thereof, category information thereof, impression information thereof, time information thereof, place information thereof, weather information thereof, and event information thereof is inputted.

44. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium in which is stored a computer-executable program for implementing an image retrieving method for retrieving stored images, the method comprising:

an image storage step, of storing a plurality of images, wherein each image includes a plurality of objects;

a storage step, of storing management identification information for each of a ~~[[the]]~~ plurality of objects including in a single image in association with the single image

~~relevant information for the plurality of objects~~, wherein the management relevant information includes a word describing an interrelation ship between one object with at least one other object;

a query retrieval requirement input step, of inputting query requirements for retrieval; and

a retrieval step, of retrieving an image including an object that meets the query requirements for retrieval inputted in the query retrieval requirement input step, based on the stored management relevant information.

45. (Currently amended) A storage medium according to claim 44, wherein the management relevant information further includes at least one of a general name of an object, a qualifier therefor, a proper noun thereof, and a position thereof.

46. (Currently amended) A storage medium according to claim 44, wherein the management relevant information further includes information expressing a state of an object in the single image.

47. (Canceled)

48. (Previously presented) A storage medium according to claim 45, wherein the qualifier is comprised of a plurality of words.

49. (Currently amended) A storage medium according to claim 44, wherein the method further comprises a position designation step of designating a position of an object of interest in the single image, and a display step of displaying an input window used to input the management relevant information concerning the object at the designated position.

50. (Previously presented) A storage medium according to claim 49, wherein, in the position designation step, positions of two mutually-related objects in the single image are designated.

51. (Previously presented) An storage medium according to claim 44, wherein, in said storage step, supplementary information including at least one of imaging-related information of the single image, special object information thereof, category information thereof, impression information thereof, time information thereof, place information thereof, weather information thereof, and event information thereof is stored.

52. (Currently amended) An image managing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the management relevant information is textual information.

53. (Currently amended) An image retrieving apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the management relevant information is textual information.

54. (Currently amended) An image managing method according to claim 18, wherein the management relevant information is textual information.

55. (Currently amended) An image retrieving method according to claim 27, wherein the management relevant information is textual information.

56. (Currently amended) An storage medium according to claim 35, wherein the management relevant information is textual information.

57. (Currently Amended) An storage medium according to claim 44, wherein the management relevant information is textual information.

58. (Currently amended) An image managing apparatus for managing retrievable images, comprising:

an image storage unit for storing a plurality of images;

a selection unit for selecting a single image from the plurality of images, wherein the selected image includes a plurality of objects;

a display unit for displaying the single image on a screen;

a designation unit for designating a position of an object in the single image displayed on the screen;

an input unit, operable to input management relevant information for ~~each of the object designated said designation unit~~ plurality of objects within the single image, wherein the management relevant information includes a word describing an interrelationship between the designated ~~[[one]]~~ object with at least one other object; and

a storage unit, operable to store the management relevant information inputted by said input unit in association with the single image.

59. (Currently amended) An image retrieval apparatus for retrieving images,  
comprising:

an image storage unit for storing a plurality of images, wherein each image  
includes a plurality of objects:

a storage unit, operable to store management ~~identification~~ information for each  
of a ~~[[the]]~~ plurality of objects included in a single image in association with the single image  
~~relevant information for the plurality of objects~~, the relevant information including a word  
describing an interrelationship between the ~~[[one]]~~ object with at least one other object;

a query ~~retrieval requirement~~ query input unit, operable to input query  
~~requirements~~ for retrieval; ~~[[and]]~~

a retrieval unit, operable to retrieve an image ~~including an object~~ that meets the  
query ~~requirements for retrieval~~ inputted by said query ~~retrieval requirement~~ input unit, based on  
the management ~~relevant~~ information stored in said storage unit;

a display unit, operable to display the image retrieved by said retrieval unit.

60. (Canceled)